

ACF Dermatology Programme Details in conjunction with The University of Manchester

Recruitment to posts starting in August 2027

Overview

You can find generic information about Academic Clinical Fellowships in the North West plus links to the National Institute for Health Research's guidance via <https://www.nwpgmd.nhs.uk/nihr-academic-clinical-fellowships-glance>

The Manchester dermatology programme is one of only three nationally to have been awarded Walport academic lectureships and fellowships, which run alongside the standard dermatology training. Excellence in education is at the heart of integrated clinical academic training in dermatology in Manchester, and the supportive training environment promotes development of communication, teamwork and leadership skills, which ultimately drives forward standards of patient care.

With 36 consultants and 16 specialist registrars in the programme including Academic Clinical Fellows and Lecturers, the enthusiasm, diversity and energy created is unique, and trainees are expected to take full advantage of the opportunities provided by such a dynamic programme. Near the start of training, each trainee is matched with both Clinical and Academic Educational Supervisors who will act as mentors, throughout their training.

Our previous experience – over the past 10 years of the Dermatology ACF programme is that a coordinated effort between the lead academic, the training programme director (TPD) and likely PhD supervisory team is tailored for each individual ACF to allow 3 blocks of research time (generally 3-4 months) through years 1-2/3 of their specialty training. The goal is to allow effective time to nurture a specific research interest in block 1, translate this into abstract, conference presentations and publications in block 2, with block 3 then serving as the time to consolidate and submit fellowship applications to relevant funders such as the MRC, Wellcome Trust and NIHR.

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Academic Training

ACF holders can undertake general academic training provided by the Integrated Academic Training programme. This will give the holder the opportunity to

develop in skills such as scientific writing, scientific public speaking, grant writing, patient and public involvement research, and personal effectiveness.

There is also the opportunity to pursue a bespoke training programme. We have a leading skin biology research programme and the candidate has the opportunity to train in laboratories for research in hair biology, genetics, microbiome research, skin immunology including mast cell biology, and skin aging. There is also the opportunity to pursue training in population and clinical research, with journal clubs and training available in epidemiology, routine data analysis, data science, statistical analysis and coding.

There is the opportunity to pursue in a Masters in Medical Research degree at the university through modules offered through the Integrated Academic Training programme.

Research Areas / Research Environment

Dermatology has been established as a core academic strength in Manchester for 2 decades; and has numerous internationally leading programmes in Inflammatory Skin Disease; Photodermatoses; Inflammatory Hair Disease; Skin Cancer; and Wound Healing which formed the dermatology backbone of the recently successful BRC bid. The department has a strong working relationship with industrial partners, exemplified by the long-standing relationship with Boots and the No7 Beauty Company on skin aging in diverse skin tones; as well as hosting one of the leading dermato-pharmacology clinical trials units in the countries and being involved in the development of numerous breakthrough medications for inflammatory skin diseases. The Centre hosts two national registers for Psoriasis (BADBIR) and Alopecia Areata (GRASS-UK) and closely collaborates with the rheumatology and pharmacy departments at the university, sharing expertise in data science and epidemiology.

This is complemented by being allied to The Dermatology Centre at Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust (36 consultants, 24,000 new and 84,000 follow-up appointments p.a.); which has a leading psoriasis clinic established in 1994; hair disease clinic; an NHS England photobiology unit; its own laboratory facilities at the University of Manchester and a dedicated Clinical Trials Facility established 1994 linked to the NIHR/ Wellcome Trust Manchester Clinical Research Facility.

Patient and public involvement is a core priority for dermatology at Manchester, and the recently established Dermatology Research User group at the NIHR BRC is a fantastic resource for dermatology researchers wishing to conduct PPI focus groups and research as part of their project or for their own training. There are regular outreach programmes that the ACF holder can participate in; for example, the department has recently conducted a highly successful public knowledge mobilisation programme for photo-aggravated atopic eczema.

Recent ACFs have worked on diverse projects from quantifying cumulative life burden of inflammatory diseases to understanding the molecular biology of scarring alopecia using an in-vitro model. We have an established successful track record of ACFs obtaining doctoral external fellowships from the Wellcome Trust, MRC, and the NIHR, as well as intermediate fellowship after the ACL scheme. The current Academic Training Programme Director has graduated from the academic clinical training programme in Manchester and thus is well placed to mentor ACF programme holders in developing their own academic clinical career. The Clinical and Academic Training Programme Directors work seamlessly to maximise opportunities allowing clinical-academic trainees to successfully meet both clinical and research challenges.

Clinical Training

The Manchester clinical dermatology training programme is one of the largest in the UK. Its prestigious reputation as a centre of excellence draws from the internationally recognised, world-leading academic department based at The University of Manchester, combined with the exceptional clinical training which promotes mastery of both general and sub-specialty areas.

With 36 consultant dermatologists as part of the "hub and spoke" model based at the Dermatology Centre, Salford Royal Foundation Trust Hospital, trainees receive direct supervision from national experts in general dermatology and diverse specialised areas such as dermatological surgery, laser surgery, contact dermatitis, hair diseases, skin cancer – including melanoma and cutaneous lymphoma, paediatric dermatology, vulval dermatology, photo-biology and -therapy, inflammatory skin disease – psoriasis and atopic eczema, dermatopathology, connective tissue disease, stoma dermatology, chronic urticaria, and cosmetic dermatology. Appropriate consultant supervision is provided for all ward referrals and outpatient clinics which combine both new and follow-up patients. Each Thursday afternoon is designated an academic session at Salford Royal Hospital and all trainees are expected to be present. This session includes formal clinical teaching, joint clinical meetings, research discussion, journal club, cancer MDT, audit and invited lectures/seminars.

The dermatology training is outstanding and in addition to Salford Royal, trainees may have clinical rotations to other University-affiliated teaching hospitals, district general hospitals and tier 2 dermatology services.

You can find out more about the clinical training programmes in the North West via the following link - https://www.nwpgmd.nhs.uk/specialty_schools

Clinical person specifications can be found via the following link -
<https://medical.hee.nhs.uk/medical-training-recruitment/medical-specialty-training/person-specifications/person-specifications-2026>

Useful Links

<https://www.oriel.nhs.uk/Web/Vacancies>
<https://www.nwpgmd.nhs.uk/nihr-academic-clinical-fellowships-glance>
<https://www.manchesterbrc.nihr.ac.uk/our-research/dermatology-2/>

Last reviewed: 19/09/26